

0062714-042098

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- Sub A
- 1 1. An inflatable vest to circumferentially fit around a patient comprising:  
2 a belt of inextensible material sized to fit circumferentially around  
3 the patient with a width to cover a substantial portion of a chest of the patient,  
4 having an inner surface facing toward the chest, and having an aperture sized to  
5 receive a connector post of a removable bladder;  
6 the removable bladder secured to said belt and further comprising:  
7 a bottom-chest panel of an inextensible material sized to  
8 cover a substantial portion or more of the chest;  
9 a top-belt panel of an inextensible material having edges  
10 sealed to edges of the bottom-chest panel to form an air tight bladder chamber, said  
11 top-belt panel having a width substantially greater than a width of the belt,  
12 the connector post mounted to the top-belt panel to form a  
13 gas passageway to the chamber mounted on said belt and in fluid communication  
14 with said chamber, said connector post adapted to couple with a pneumatic hose.
  - 1 2. The vest of claim 1, wherein said panels of the removable bladder are  
2 made of a nylon fabric double coated with polyurethane.
  - 1 3. The vest of claim 1, wherein the width of said top-chest panel is at least  
2 two inches greater than a width of the belt where the belt overlaps the bladder.
  - 1 4. The vest of claim 1 further comprising a sleeve attached to said top-chest  
2 panel and where said sleeve forms an opening to receive the belt.
  - 1 5. The vest of claim 1 further comprising a pair of loop bands attached to  
2 said top-chest panel and where each of said loop bands forms an opening to receive  
3 the belt.

1 *Sub B1* > 6. An inflatable vest to circumferentially fit around a patient comprising:

2 a belt sized to fit around the patient with a width to cover a  
3 substantial portion of the chest of the patient, said belt being substantially  
4 circumferentially inextensible when fitted around the patient;

5 a removable bladder which radially expands when filled with a gas  
6 to first to tighten the belt around the patient and second to cyclically apply  
7 circumferential pressure against the chest, wherein said removable bladder further  
8 comprises:

9 a bottom-chest panel of an inextensible material that covers at  
10 least a substantial portion of the chest,

11 a top-belt panel of an inextensible material sealed to said  
12 bottom-chest panel to form a gas tight bladder chamber having an opening to  
13 receive compressed gas, and

14 at least one band attached at opposite ends to said top-belt  
15 panel, where the band and the top-belt panel form an opening to receive the belt.

1 *Sub B2* > 7. The vest of claim 6, wherein said panels of the removable bladder are  
2 made of a nylon fabric double coated with polyurethane.

1 *Sub B3* > 8. The vest of claim 6, wherein the width of said top-chest panel is at least  
2 two inches greater than a width of the belt where the belt overlaps the bladder.

1 9. The vest of claim 6 further comprising a sleeve attached to said top-chest  
2 panel and where said sleeve forms an opening to receive the belt.

1 10. The vest of claim 6 further comprising a pair of loop bands attached to  
2 said top-chest panel and where each of said loop bands forms an opening to receive  
3 the belt.

- 1 11. The vest of claim 6, wherein said top-chest panel has at least one  
2 attachment panel which attaches to at least one corresponding attachment panel on  
3 an inner surface of the belt, when the belt is aligned with the bladder.

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